

REMARKS

Applicant wishes to thank the Examiner for the detailed remarks. Claims 1, 6, 11, 12 and 13 have been amended. New claims 22-29 are presented. Accordingly, claims 1-17 and 22-29 are pending. New claim 22 is allowable claim 2 in independent form.

Applicant affirms the election of claims 1-17 (Group 1).

Claims 1, 11-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Palmer* (4,942,013). Claims 1 and 11-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Hooper* (5,576,030). Claims 1, 11-12 and 14 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by *Filsinger* (DE10013409C1). Applicant respectfully traverses these rejections as none of the cited referees disclose a first ply having a sieve member adjacent an elastomeric sheet rubber opposite a release film as recited in the amended claims. Each of the cited references locates a wire screen to provide resin flow. The "woven wire screen 180 is applied over the fiberglass bleeder 178 to function as a mechanical flow path for the liquid resin in conjunction with the fiberglass bleeder 178." [See *Palmer* col 13, lines 62-68] [See *Filsinger* paragraph 22 – "flow promoting device 15"] [See *Hooper* Col. 4, lines 58-65 "A first distribution medium in the form of at least one layer of mesh screen sheet 24 is placed over the peel ply 21, which acts to distribute a resin over the entire lay-up. The sheet 24 can be a metal wire mesh screen..."] The structure of the present invention locates the sieve member adjacent said elastomeric sheet rubber material opposite said release film. It should be understood that the release film is the innermost member and sits upon the prepreg core being formed. Such an arrangement will not provide resin flow through the elastomeric sheet rubber and therefore the sieve member is not utilized for resin flow. The claims are properly allowable.

New claims 23-29 recite further features of the present invention which are neither disclosed nor suggested by the cited references and are thus properly allowable.